

Social Security also plays a critical role in providing financial security for minorities. African Americans are more likely to receive disability benefits. Since their life expectancy is shorter than average, survivor benefits are also important. Also, about 2/3 of African Americans and about 3 out of 5 Hispanic seniors would have income below poverty without Social Security. As we consider changes to the program, we must not reduce the benefits that are vital to preventing poverty among minorities.

As we protect Social Security for those who rely on it the most, we must also work to ensure Social Security is fair to all generations. Our kids and grandkids need us to find a way to improve the low rates of return they will receive from Social Security. For example, a single man who is 31 years old today and earns average wages can expect a rate of return on his contributions of only a little more than 1 percent, and kids born today can expect even less. We cannot, in fairness, allow this to continue.

The President's bipartisan Commission to Strengthen Social Security has talked about the unique needs of women and minorities, as well as the system's low rates of return in its Interim Report and throughout its meetings. Soon, the Commission will recommend several options for modernizing and strengthening Social Security. It's the beginning of a long road to make American's most important income security program secure far into the future.

That road will lead here to the Congress where the first and the final decisions will be made on this critical issue. My hope is those decisions will be bipartisan from the beginning, because that is the environment that the Social Security debate deserves. So let us begin today, as Congress first voices its views, and let that voice be a bipartisan one.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I encourage all Members on both sides of the aisle to co-sponsor this critically important resolution. We must act now to assure Americans that any plan for saving Social Security will guarantee current law promised benefits, including cost-of-living adjustments, for current and future retirees without increasing taxes. Our children, our grandchildren, and future generations deserve no less.

TRIBUTE TO ALBANIAN FLAG DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Albanian American community in celebrating the 89th anniversary of Albanian Flag Day which symbolizes Albania's independence.

On November 28, 1912 Albania declared its independence by raising its flag in the coastal town of Vlora. Since that glorious day, Albania has endured many hardships but has managed to persevere. The conflict that occurred in Kosovo only a short time ago tested Albania and its people. Albania and its proud citizens are entering into a new era of political, social, and cultural growth. They possess a focused vision of their future and will do all they feel is necessary to ensure prosperity.

The United States relationship with Albania is strong and growing stronger. This was evident when Albania pledged its support to us in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Today, the United States is enriched by the many Albanian Americans living here. They have made major contributions to nearly every facet of American society. The Albanian community adds to the wonderfully diverse American culture by sharing with us their customs and beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Albania, those of Albanian ancestry around the world and Albanian Americans in celebrating Albanian Flag Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

IN HONOR OF DOROTHY ISAAC FAUSTINO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dorothy Isaac Faustino in recognition of her tireless commitment to healthcare and serving those in need.

Dorothy Isaac Faustino grew up in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Long Island City. She earned her nursing diploma from Kings County Hospital Center's School of Nursing. Later, she earned her Bachelor's degree from Adelphi University. She also received Adelphi's Eileen Jacobi Leadership Award and was inducted into the National Honor Society for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau.

Dorothy is not one to allow herself a moment's rest. Following her undergraduate education, while raising a family, working and running a Girl Scout troop for 10 years at Sacred Heart Church, in Cambria Heights, Dorothy earned a joint Master's Degree from Columbia University in Nursing and Public Health. While there she also became involved in working with the homeless. Together with several other students, Dorothy and her team developed a hand book and training curriculum for staff and volunteers working with the homeless from 1985 to 1988.

In addition, to being a tireless worker, Dorothy is a people person who has involved herself in programs that make an impact in her community, such as, teen pregnancy programs and Brooklyn's Perinatal Network—where she worked for over 12 years in the Bed-Stuy and Fort Greene communities. She collaborated with Medgar Evers College's School of Continuing Education and Fort Greene's Youth Coalition program to develop curricula and training programs for welfare recipients to become nurse's aides.

In 1987, Dorothy became Director of Nursing for Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center. She and her staff were deeply involved in community and school based outreach programs. They provided health care and education to children and teens in the Beacon School Program in Fort Greene. In addition, Cumberland staff provided one of the first back to school campaigns to get children immunized. Dorothy and her staff also worked nights and weekends to provide health care to families in the Auburn Family Shelter, the Atlantic Avenue Men's Shelter and the Brooklyn

Emergency Assistance Unit at the Duffield Center.

Dorothy has worked with the Fort Greene Community in providing special outreach and health screening events for its senior citizens, day care centers and its middle and senior high schools. She has mentored students into various careers and continues to work with staff supporting them as their careers progress. Ms. Faustino is currently the Deputy Director for Ambulatory Care Nursing Services for the North Brooklyn Health Network. She was professionally involved in the Queens County Black Nurse's Association for over ten years.

Dorothy says she had the loving support of her husband for 34 years until his recent death and their daughters Nancy and Allison. Anyone who has worked with Dorothy knows her motto is "EACH ONE, REACH ONE, TEACH ONE".

Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Faustino has led a life dedicated to improving her community through her field of expertise, healthcare. Moreover, she has distinguished herself as a caring and committed person who brings a high sense of integrity to her life and work. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which expresses solidarity with Israel in the fight against terrorism, and as introduced by my colleagues, House International Relations Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS.

Last week, Israel faced another series of terrorist attacks against innocent civilians, many of them children and teenagers. An orchestrated attack on Saturday night in Jerusalem and two bus attacks in Haifa and near Afula in the north of Israel caused the deaths of 32 Israelis and injured more than 200. These attacks have focused the world's attention on the Palestinian leadership's failure and unwillingness to fight terrorism. As we have seen time and again since the launching of the September 2000 intifada, the Palestinian leadership continues to encourage violence through incitement, and through institutional cooperation among the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Additionally, the Palestinian leadership has shown a disturbing proclivity to release terrorists from jails and to allow them to operate freely in the territory under their control. These actions are direct violations of the agreements the Palestinians have signed with Israel and the United States.

H. Con. Res. 280 clearly outlines the steps PA Chairman Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian leadership must take—dismantle and destroy their terrorist infrastructure; arrest and prosecute the terrorists or turn them over to the Israeli government. If the Palestinians do not comply, then as provided under this bill, the President should suspend all relations with Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. The